Pan Africa Project Network

162. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have offered Pan Africa Project Network for the development of communication system in African countries;

(b) if so, the details of such countries;

(c) the estimate expenditure to be incurred in this regard;

(d) by when the project is expected to be completed; and

(e) the extent to which India shall be benefited? -

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) All 53 member State of the African Union.

(c) As of now, the estimated expenditure to be incurred in US$ 67.3 million over a period of five years.

(d) The project involves installation, commissioning , operations and maintenance of the network. Installation and commissioning will be completed within 18 months in a phased manner, depending upon the speed of response from individual African countries.

(e) The project would earn considerable goodwill for India throughout the African countries, It would help in showcasing India's advancement in the fields of satellite and information technology. Once the network is in place, it is expected to open up further opportunities for India in the new areas of IT applications like remote sensing, e-commerce, etc.

Provision of wireless Internet connectivity

163. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to provide wireless Internet connectivity in the country;

(b) the projects proposed to be undertaken by Government and private companies in this regard; and